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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS NAMES 2006 ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

CHESHIRE (CT) -- The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) is pleased to announce the selection of the 2006 Assistant Principals of the Year. Each year, nominations are solicited for the *Elementary, Middle, and High School Assistant Principal of the Year* awards. The winners are chosen by the CAS Awards and Recognition Committee, a selection committee consisting of active and retired principals and assistant principals. Congratulations to this year's winners!

- **Anthony Carrano**, Assistant Principal, Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, Old Lyme
2006 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year
- **Donna Hayward**, Assistant Principal, Rocky Hill High School, Rocky Hill
2006 High School Assistant Principal of the Year

No 2006 *Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year* was named.

Anthony Carrano

A 31-year veteran educator and current resident of Madison, CT, Anthony D. Carrano has been selected as the *2006 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year*. Though an assistant principal at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School (LOLMS) for just five years, Carrano has had a tremendous impact on its students, staff and community. Since joining the LOLMS administration in 2000, Carrano has succeeded in reducing discipline referral rates, strengthening relationships with youth agencies in the Lyme-Old Lyme community, promoting activities to improve the physical appearance of the school, and rebuilding the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

A 1972 graduate of Quinnipiac University, Carrano earned a master's degree from the Southern Connecticut State University in 1980 and completed his sixth year certificate at the University of Bridgeport in 1985. He began his career in education as a Social Studies teacher in Westbrook, CT, where he worked for twenty-six years before assuming his current position at LOLMS.

Upon learning of his selection as the *2006 Middle School Principal of the Year*, Carrano remarked, "I am honored and thrilled to be CAS' choice for this prestigious award. However, the honor does not belong to me alone... it is shared by all of the students, families, faculty, staff, and fellow administrators who are a part of the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools. Their dedication and daily efforts are extremely supportive and make my job enjoyable, collectively contributing to the excellence that is the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools." Carrano was nominated for the award by LOLMS Principal Jeff Ostroff.

Carrano is known as an energetic and enthusiastic administrator whose every action is driven by his desire for improved educational opportunities for his students. And he concerns himself as much with his students' social and emotional welfare as with their academic success. When handling discipline matters, he is always eager to work with students and their families to find a resolution that is remedial rather than punitive. According to Ostroff, discipline referrals have decreased thirty percent since Carrano took over as assistant principal; and, the number of "repeat offenders" has significantly declined. Ostroff credits Carrano with creating a "happy, productive and safe community" for all who work and learn at LOLMS.

Described by LOLMS Language Arts Teacher Jane Regan as "an active, highly visible leader who has the ability to connect with staff, parents and students within the school community," Carrano is admired for his ability to be both a leader and a listener. Says Ostroff, "With all of Tony's strengths, his most effective gift is his extraordinary ability to make people, both young and old, feel as though they are important and that their concerns and feelings are being heard."

According to Regan, Carrano is respected for his uncompromising dedication to his students and school community. "I know that Tony spends countless hours completing administrative duties after the school day because he is busy during the day walking the hallways, visiting classrooms, eating lunch in the cafeteria, attending team meetings and running PPTs," says Regan. And Carrano is a constant presence at athletic events, school plays, dances and field trips.

A steadfast advocate for young people, Carrano also works tirelessly on behalf of his staff. Teachers agree that he has succeeded in building a climate where they feel both supported and appreciated. LOLMS Unified Arts Teacher Diane Giarratona says, "Tony makes sure there is continuous interaction between him and his teachers...One of his greatest qualities is his eagerness to

assist his teachers.” Giarratona praises Carrano’s can-do attitude, his approachability, and his openness to new ideas.

Carrano has been a prominent instructor and motivator, not only at the middle school but within the district as a whole. He currently serves as a member of the District Safety Committee, the District Professional Development Committee and the Principals’ Advisory Board.

Donna Hayward

Donna Hayward, assistant principal of Rocky Hill High School (RHHS) and resident of Glastonbury, CT, has been named the *2006 High School Assistant Principal of the Year*. Hayward is in her thirteenth year of service to the public school children of Connecticut. She earned both a bachelor and master’s degree from Smith College (MA) and began her professional career in 1993 as a Math teacher at Farmington High School. After just five years in the classroom, Hayward was selected as the assistant principal of RHHS, the position she now holds.

“I work with some of the finest professionals in our field, and have been fortunate to have been mentored by master educators both in Rocky Hill and in greater Connecticut. I am profoundly thankful to them and am humbled to walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before me,” said Hayward upon learning of her award. “I do believe that ‘To whom much is given, much is required’ -- my challenge, then, is to end each day knowing that I have contributed something worthwhile, something lasting.”

RHHS Principal Robert Pitocco nominated Hayward for the award, describing her as a leader of “integrity, vision, and principle.” While skillfully managing the tasks of student discipline and staff development, Hayward still finds time to implement new school improvement initiatives, assist staff in reviewing and revising curricula, and engage in collaborative efforts to build a school climate that is conducive to learning, enrichment, improvement and progress. Her focus on academic excellence and insistence upon high standards have earned her the respect of staff, students, parents and community members alike.

In her eight years as assistant principal, Hayward has been the driving force behind a number of successful initiatives at RHHS. She established the Vice Principal Advisory Council, which allows for open, direct and sustained communication between the teachers and the administration; she launched the Student Advisory Group, which enables student representatives to be decision-makers and actively participate in resolving issues that affect the school community; she formed the Freshmen Leadership Advisory Group (FLAG) which utilizes the skills of upperclassmen to make freshmen orientation a more meaningful experience for both students and parents; she created the advisor/advisee program which ensures that all freshmen and sophomores are assigned a supportive faculty advisor with whom they can share concerns and discuss issues and ideas; and she organized the Lend a Paw Day to encourage citizenship and community service. Furthermore, under Hayward’s leadership, the Advanced Placement course offerings were expanded from one to thirteen; and, several unique and creative courses were added, including Forensic Science, Honors Physics, Music Technology and International Business.

According to RHHS English Teacher Tami Devine, what makes Hayward a great leader is the passion and sincerity with which she sets about inspiring others – staff and students alike – to achieve excellence. “Donna has created a school climate in which students and teachers feel they are valued and where the mission statement is not just a document taped to a wall, but an authentic, shared philosophy,” says Devine. Nadine Bell, chair of the Rocky Hill Board of Education, praises Hayward’s collaborative approach to building leadership, which involves empowering her staff to be partners in the decision-making process and working side-by-side with them to develop and implement a vision for improved educational opportunities.

In all that Hayward does it is clear that the welfare of her students is foremost in her mind. She goes out of her way to make each and every student feel special and important. RHHS senior Giuseppe Buonannata describes Hayward as student-focused in all manners, beginning with her child-friendly office. Says Buonannata, “As one enters the main office at our school, one’s eye is immediately caught by Ms. Hayward’s bright office door, almost completely decorated with pictures of us students.” Pitocco notes, “Each year, Donna makes a commitment to learn every single student in each of the classes. She literally brings the yearbook home and reviews pictures until each student’s name is committed to her memory.”

According to Devine, many students consider RHHS a “second home;” and, she credits Hayward with creating a family-like atmosphere where students feel safe, cared for and valued. “Without Donna Hayward at the helm, Rocky Hill High School would just be a building,” says Devine. “Instead, it is a place where teachers feel empowered to make a difference in the lives of students, both personally and academically.”

Hayward’s extraordinary accomplishments as an assistant principal are best described by Jeanette Fraulo, a veteran science teacher at RHHS. Says Fraulo, “As an experienced teacher, I have grown in my profession from my work with Donna. While George W. Bush may be credited with the concept of *No Child Left Behind*, it is to this standard that Donna has dedicated her whole career.”

An active and energetic member of the Connecticut Association of Schools since 1998, Hayward currently serves as co-chair of the Assistant Principals’ Annual Conference Planning Committee and is a member of the Professional Studies Committee, the Critical Issues Committee, the Public Relations Committee, and the Assistant Principals Committee.

Hayward has been selected by CAS to represent Connecticut in the National Assistant Principal of the Year Program sponsored jointly by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and Virco, Inc. Hayward, along with assistant principals from each of the other fifty states, as well as the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity associations, will compete for the national honor. The national winner receives a \$5,000 award from Virco. For additional information about the National Principal of the Year Awards Program, please visit <http://www.nassp.org/>.

The State Assistant Principal of the Year Program

In this new era of shared leadership, the assistant principal's role has become multi-dimensional. No longer does the assistant principal only deal with student discipline and attendance. Today's assistant principal is often responsible for curriculum and instruction, staff evaluation, community partnerships, public relations, technology, student activities, and many other crucial areas of operation.

The Assistant Principal of the Year Program, sponsored annually by the Connecticut Association of Schools, was established in 1990 to bring recognition to the assistant principalship and to spotlight the critical role that assistant principals play in the education of our youth. The program recognizes outstanding school assistant principals who have succeeded in providing high quality learning opportunities for students. These administrators have demonstrated excellent leadership commitment to staff and students, service to their communities, and contributions to the overall profession of educational leadership.

Award Criteria

Each year nominations are solicited for an Elementary, Middle Level, and High School Assistant Principal of the Year. The winners are chosen by a selection committee consisting of active and retired principals and assistant principals.

State assistant principals of the year must demonstrate success in the following areas.

Collaborative Leadership

- Involves teachers, staff members, parents, students, and the community in achieving the goals of the school
- Provides direction or focus to achieve the school's goals as a member of the school's leadership team
- Models continuous professional growth
- Teaches, coaches, and assists others in professional development that focuses on student learning
- Balances management tasks with instructional leadership tasks
- Utilizes effective problem-solving techniques

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- Improves teaching and learning by implementing programs and improvement efforts
- Observes, supervises, and evaluates teachers and instructional programs to maximize the learning opportunities for every student
- Analyzes multiple sources of data to improve instructional practices and outcomes
- Demonstrates knowledge of learning, teaching, research, and programs that maximize student performance
- Facilitates in developing and maintaining cocurricular programs that complement the curriculum while fostering students' academic success

Personalization

- Assists in establishing and maintaining a positive school climate that reflects high student and staff morale
- Interacts professionally and tactfully with others
- Assists in creating structures that enable teachers to develop an appreciation for each student's abilities
- Acknowledges achievement or accomplishments of students and teachers
- Communicates effectively orally and in writing
- Models values, beliefs, and attitudes that inspire others to higher levels of performance
- Assists in developing and maintaining dialogue with representatives of diverse community groups

The Connecticut Association of Schools

Established in 1953, the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) is a non-profit educational organization which supports the interests of Connecticut's K-12 schools and works to improve educational opportunities for the students of our state. A leader in Connecticut's education community, CAS represents well over 1,000 of Connecticut's public and parochial schools. CAS is affiliated with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Middle School Association, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

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